TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office

April 27, 1999 LB 880

constraints that the legislation as it was passed so that we could have utilized the time to carefully evaluate whether our situation in terms of numbers of inmates was...the backlog was continuing to be reduced. And then you add in the whole factor of the priority of our situation with youthful offenders and the situation that we find ourselves in with Kearney and Geneva, and I believe that there is justification for delaying this and reevaluating it.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brown. Senator Suttle.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I realize that and I respect the Appropriations Committee's work, but as I read this budget over the weekend, and I did read it, there was nothing in there for juvenile justice. There was nothing, not even a thought about what to do with Geneva and Kearney. And I don't know whether that's the department's fault for not saying how desperate straits were in Geneva or whether that was not a priority in their long list. The Health and Human Services System is huge. You just can't even imagine how...how big and complex the system is. I think that the McCook obligation is something that was foisted on us and we...we said work camp, yes. We didn't say where it would have to be, and we gave it till 2005 to look, to make sure what was the best way to do things. Senator Pederson, when Senator Brown first introduced this amendment, he stood up and said, Senator Don Pederson, said that we are looking at a facility that could possibly be next to another facility so they could share...could share staff or facilities or share operational costs, but when we talk about removing this now he says he doesn't like the process. The process is an important thing and I agree that the process is worrisome. Senator Schimek says the process is worrisome. Senator Crosby has told me that the process, this process, is worrisome. However, I think that important that we let our priorities be known, and my priority since we have...since I've been in this body has been juvenile justice and education and all the things that deal with trying to prevent our kids from becoming better criminals. We